

What's New at Digital Library of Amateur Radio & Communications

October 2023-December 2024 Compilation

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Digital Library of Amateur Radio & Communications (DLARC) is funded by a generous grant from Amateur Radio Digital Communications to create a free digital library for the radio community, researchers, educators, and students.

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October 2023

It's been a productive month of archiving ham radio content at the Digital Library of Amateur Radio and Communications.

I've added a bevy of great material for fans of EME (Earth-Moon-Earth) communication, including 320 issues of the 432 MHz and Above EME Newsletter spanning 1996 to the present. The newsletter has been published since the early 1970s by Dr. Allen Katz K2UYH — we're still hoping to find pre-1996 issues to add to the library. I've also added 83 issues of DF2ZC's 144 MHz EME NewsLetter, with issues from 2015 to the present. That newsletter began in 2003, so again we're hoping to find pre-2015 issues to complete the collection. Curating DLARC project is a constant game of filling in holes in

collections. Sometimes it's satisfyingly possible; other times the material is tragically lost to time.

One more for EME fans: I'm in the process of finding and adding material from the International EME Conference. The first EME con took place in 1966, but the conference really seems to have found its groove with bi-annual meetings beginning in 1988. Photos, papers, presentations, and occasional videos from the various conferences are scattered in many places, and I'm working to gather them into a single DLARC collection. I'm working forward in time, and have processed through 2014 so far.

I've also scavenged the FCC's web site for material relevant to DLARC: this has ended up in three collections. One is Radio Service Bulletins, 1915-1932: Radio Service Bulletins were issued monthly by the Bureau of Navigation (and later the Radio Division, Department of Commerce) from January 1915 into the 1930s to keep mariners, aviators, and radio listeners abreast of developments in the new medium of radio. The FCC has a nice collection that I added to DLARC. Also, I added more than 300 FCC Radio History documents relating to the earliest days of radio broadcasting, important rule changes, and controversies. Finally, I dug up every Federal Communications Commission document (EDOCS in their parlance) related to amateur radio — nearly 4,000 of them, totaling 43 gigabytes — and put them in the new DLARC FCC collection. (Side note: ChatGPT was instrumental in writing code to gather the EDOCS from the FCC's web site, then process the metadata. The era of asking a computer to write computer programs is here, and it's amazing.)

Publications newly added to DLARC include The Wireless Age, with issues from 1913 to 1925; and Ham-Mag, a PDF-only amateur radio magazine that was published in French and English from 2008 to 2011 (or so?) by Vincent Faucheux F5SLD. I've found 68 issues. There are definitely missing issues, especially in the English edition, and I'm not sure when the last issue was published.

I've added two podcasts about Morse code: the WD8LQB Morse Code Podcast, a short-lived podcast from 2006 to teach Morse code; and DitDit, which features "conversations with interesting CW operators."

Finally, I've added a bunch of club newsletter collections, too many to list but you can peruse the latest additions here. Two of note are 294 issues of the Winnipeg Amateur Radio Club newsletter from 1993 to today, and 68 issues of Contest Gazette, from a Florida group focused on contesting

Oh, and I was interviewed by Hap Holly about DLARC in the latest episode of the RAIN Hamcast. I don't want to hear myself talk so I haven't listened to it, and have no idea what I might have said.

November 2023

Hello from the headquarters of the Internet Archive's Digital Library of Amateur Radio and Communications. Here's a peek into what we've added to the archive in the past month.

I've added two podcasts about the FCC. The first is More than Seven Dirty Words - the official FCC podcast. They described it as "The FCC is more than 'Seven Dirty Words.' It's over 1,400 employees, 80 years of history, and countless untold stories and unsung heroes. The Official FCC Podcast will bring you those stories, featuring interviews with FCC staff and others in the communications space." Episodes were published from August 2018 through January 2021, which was the end of "Season 1" and — apparently — the end of the podcast entirely.

The other podcast is FCC Today with Michi Bradley. Published since 2021, it focuses on FCC news, decisions, and controversies. She seems to have a particular interest in low-power FM.

I've also added a complete archive of Radio Survivor, a podcast and radio show that focuses on community radio, college radio, low-power FM, public access TV, podcasting, and internet radio. The first episode was published in 2015, and the most recent episode features an interview with me. We had a great conversation about DLARC and radio in general. There are two versions of most episodes: a strict-time-limit one-hour broadcast version, and a longer podcast version. I felt that our conversation really got going after the one-hour mark when we loosened up a little. The hosts *really* know radio from all the angles. I left the interview with a long to-do list of additional resources to research for possible inclusion in the DLARC library.

I've finished archiving material from the International EME Conference, the moonbounce communications con that first took place in 1966. The material — PowerPoint decks, papers, recorded talks, and photos — were scattered in more than dozen places. For the first time they're browsable and searchable in a single digital location. (The next EME conference will take place in Trenton, New Jersey August 9-11, 2024.)

And newsletters! I've added newsletter collections from four more ham radio groups. Working west to east, there's 400+ issues of the W6TRW Amateur Radio

Club “Bulletin”, published in Redondo Beach, California since 1968; 187 issues of the Rochester (New York) DX Association Newsletter; 194 issues of Massachusetts’ Minuteman Repeater Association “The Minuteman” newsletter; and from Maine, a few issues of the the Merrymeeting Amateur Radio Association Squelch Tales newsletter.

My colleagues at the Internet Archive's scanning center in Fort Wayne, Indiana have been busy scanning the physical material acquired by DLARC, primarily though donations from people like you. More than 550 items have been scanned since October 1. I still need to go through them to clean up the titles and other metadata, but take a look and you’ll find endless radio catalogs, manuals, and books to explore. Service manual for a Kenwood Model TV-502S 2M transverter? Got it. Proceedings of the RAWCON 1998 IEEE Radio and Wireless Conference? Covered. Manual and schematics for an EICO Tube Tester 625? A borrowable book on monitoring NASA communications? Sure thing.

If you’ll permit me a paragraph for a non-radio tangent: if you like old electronics catalogs, check out the collection of DAK Catalogs uploaded to Internet Archive this week by my friend Cabel. In the 1980s and 1990s, DAK Industries mailed glossy catalogs selling high-tech gadgets described with sales copy that made the gear so enticing. Also read Cabel’s fascinating blog post about the history of the catalog.

December 2023

I’m thrilled to announce that the Digital Library of Amateur Radio & Communications has passed the 100,000 item milestone! A hundred thousand books, magazines, catalogs, manuals, podcast episodes, and other items related to radio.

I’ve created a DLARC Wantlist, a web page that lists specific items that the library is looking for to fill gaps in the collection. Please check it out — you just might have something that the community desperately needs. I will keep that page updated as the library’s needs change.

I recently learned that SGC, a company that manufactured HF gear for more than 50 years, went out of business earlier this year. Its web site is gone, so I scraped every document that I could find from the Wayback Machine, and ended up with a collection of 176 manuals, schematics, product slicks, and catalogs from the defunct company.

Ondes Magazine was a French amateur radio magazine that was published from 2002 through 2008. It is now included in DLARC with permission of the

publisher, Jean-Phi F5GKW. (If you read French or German and want to help me add material to DLARC, would you contact me? There are several other non-English magazines I'd like to get permission for, but I need help.)

DLARC also added an [archive of Mediageek Radioshow](#), which was a weekly public affairs radio show covering grassroots and independent media. The program ran from 2002 through 2008, and we have all the episodes. It reported on and examined issues like low-power FM and unlicensed broadcasting, public access TV, and community radio.

The staff of KDVS 90.3 FM, student and community radio station based in Davis, California, asked for my help in archiving their programs. It seems their server that automatically records off the air has been flailing and failing for a long time. I retrieved what I could from the dying machine and ended up with an [eclectic collection of programs that aired February 2020 through April 2023](#).

DLARC also added 53 issues of the Utah Valley Amateur Radio Club "[Shack](#)" [newsletter](#). (A bonus for me: I didn't have to do anything! A club representative uploaded them to Internet Archive. Thanks!) We also added more than 500 videos about ham radio courtesy of [K7AGE](#) and [N7KOM](#), who allowed their YouTube channels to be archived in DLARC.

Also new is an archive of [selected comments submitted to the Federal Communications Commission](#) via the Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS) related to ham radio. I'm not going to add all 40,000+ comments ever submitted that mention amateur radio, but I'm trying to cherry pick the best stuff. This little project started when Steve Stroh was looking for [Bruce Perens' 2017 comment](#) regarding FCC Docket 17-215, the Technological Advisory Council's inquiry into reforming technical regulations. Steve called the comment "the best rethinking of the Amateur Radio regulations that I've seen in the last decade."

Secret tip: If you want to know about every new addition to DLARC as soon as they're added, [here's the magic link to spy on new additions](#) as we add them. (You can also get that link [as an RSS feed](#).) Note that you might see items before they're fully baked with metadata and thumbnail images.

I was [interviewed by Eric at the QSO Today Podcast](#) about DLARC (admittedly, we spent the first half of the interview talking about my first love, Atari computers.) And just two episodes later, Eric interviewed [Zero Retries](#) [Interesting Steve Stroh](#)!

January 2024

There are two things I love about New Year's Day: the Hoppin' John dinner that my wife makes, and Public Domain Day. Hoppin' John is a traditional peas and rice meal; Public Domain Day is the day when material copyrighted years ago enters the public domain.

On January 1, 2024, content published in 1928 in the United States entered the public domain. There was much talk about how the 1928 Disney movie Steamboat Willie, and therefore the first iteration of Mickey Mouse, entered the public domain. And also thousands of books (such as D.H Lawrence's *Lady Chatterley's Lover*) and lots of music, including Cole Porter's "Let's Do It (Let's Fall In Love)". ([Here's a nice rundown.](#)) That's all well and good, but what about the amateur radio content?

I found well over 100 items already in DLARC that were published in 1928, including the books Radio — A Study of First Principles by Elmer E. Burns, The Radio Manual by George E. Sterling, Radio Engineering Principals by Lauer and Brown, and Radio Receivers and Servicing by K. M. Macilvain.

The real fun, in my opinion, comes with radio magazines, which add art, advertisements, and really show the fun of the radio hobby in 1928. Start with the November 1928 edition of Science and Invention (with an article about how an airplane transmitted a photograph via radio, and a bargain at just 25 cents cover price!) Then enjoy the November 1928 edition of Radio Listeners' Guide and Callbook (the ads are amazing.) You can read a whole year of Radio magazine, and The General Radio Experimenter, and Radio News, and QST.

Every word, every picture in those public domain radio books and magazines are yours to do anything you want with. Use the art in your newsletter. Re-release the best stuff as a blog or ebook. They belong to everyone.

My Hoppin' John-fueled public domain excitement abated, I'm ready to change topics. Here's a great little story about cause and effect.

I met with this publication's esteemed editor, Steve Stroh, at a coffee shop where he handed me a grocery bag filled with ham radio related floppy disks and CD-ROMs. I've barely begun processing all of that media, but certain discs caught my eye: TAPR Software Library CD-ROMs for 1996, 1997, and 1998. Though I've got a lot more digging to do on them, I know already that these discs are absolute gold: in the RAUDIO directory I found 50 episodes of Amateur Radio Newsline in RealAudio format. Those episodes span January 21 1996 through December 27 1996 — one of the lost years of Newsline, now completely

recovered! Since I doubt any of us has working RealAudio software in 2024, I converted the episodes to MP3 format, and like magic, [here is all of Newslines for 1996](#). (And they are all transcribed. Click the Subrip link in any Download Options pane to read an episode instead of listening.) There's so much good stuff here — perhaps start with the on-the-spot [reporting from the 1996 Dayton Hamvention](#).

I crossed the 1996 Newslines off the [DLARC Wantlist](#), but there are still more than 1,700 episodes waiting, somewhere, to be re-discovered.

Here's another effect from those same TAPR CD-ROMs in Steve's grocery bag: I learned about Ham Radio & More, which was a radio show about amateur radio hosted by Len Winkler KH7LW. It aired from 1991 to 1997, and was the first radio show devoted to ham radio on the commercial radio band. It started on a Phoenix, Arizona AM station, then became nationally syndicated. Len talked about the issues of the day (*so much* No Code discussion) and interviewed important people in the ham world. Notable guests included Wayne Green, Bob Heil, Sheriff Joe Arpaio, Princess Elettra Marconi, and Senator Barry Goldwater.

Len himself digitized 149 episodes of the show (including the episodes with the people mentioned above) and made them available at his [Ham Radio & More web site](#). He has graciously allowed me to [make them available in DLARC](#) (where they've already been transcribed.) Even better news — there are another 169 or so episodes that Len never got around to digitizing. Those tapes are on their way to DLARC World Headquarters (AKA my office), where I will digitize them and make them available online for the first time. I'll let you know when they start to roll in.

Those are only the first two things to come out of the first discs from Steve's big bag of media. You don't need to wait for *me* to find the next gem! Feel free to explore them yourself. Here are the TAPR Software Library discs for [1996](#), [1997](#), and [1998](#). (And, if you have ANY other TAPR CD-ROMs, please let me know.)

Meanwhile, at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, the librarian decided that it was time to cull the stacks of old books about radio, which they sent to DLARC. MIT sent five boxes of books: we've started digitizing them but still have a few boxes to go. As I write this, [39 books are available in the Radio Books from MIT Libraries](#) collection, including early radio texts in English, French, and German. These include Die Elektrische "Wellentelegraphie" und ihre Anwendung (Electrical "Wave Telegraphy" and its Application), published 1898; and Sams' 1962 "Single-Sideband Communications Handbook." More books will trickle into this collection as the scanners do their work.

Let's talk about magazines and newsletters. First, a big one: 370 issues of the W5YI Report! The W5YI Report was published by Fred Maia, W5YI, from 1978 until 2003. It was known as "America's Oldest Ham Radio Newsletter." Maia died in 2012. The issues uploaded so far are provided courtesy of W5YI Licensing Services. It's not a complete set, but 370 issues is nothing to sneeze at. Allan Batteiger, president of W5YI, told me — I love this part so much — that the reports were scanned by his 13-year-old granddaughter. Nice work, kid!

In an incredible bit of serendipity, the manager of the estate of Fred Laun (K3ZO) sent several boxes of W5YI reports to the DLARC scanning center. It's likely that that collection will fill in some of the gaps. We'll know more soon.

Also: the complete 100-issue collection of CQ-DATV is now available. This free amateur television magazine was published from 2013 through 2022, in PDF but also in EPUB and other formats for reading on your ebook reader. For articles with source code or other data, the files are downloadable from the relevant issues. If you want it *all*, download the 3,600-page monolith of every issue.

Newsletters, meeting minutes, and other documents from the KARO-ECHO Ham Radio Association, based in central California, are now in DLARC. We've added all 15 issues of Hambrew magazine, "for amateur radio designers and builders," which was published by George DeGrazio WF0K (SK) 1993 through 1997. And, a complete archive of Amateur Radio Weekly, Cale Mooth K4HCK's wonderful email newsletter that highlights exceptional ham radio content on the web.

A tangent: DLARC (and Internet Archive in general) can easily ingest and display PDFs (and audio files and video files and images and emulated software and...) but cannot easily deal with pure HTML due to technical and security reasons. (Here I'm talking about the "main" Internet Archive site, not the Wayback Machine.) That's why a resource like Amateur Radio Weekly, an HTML/email newsletter, is converted to PDF for easy viewing in a collection within DLARC. When it comes to Zero Retries, this publication's esteemed editor Steve Stroh didn't care for the way his newsletter looks using various automated PDF conversion methods, so he's creating bespoke PDF archives of ZR by hand. End of tangent.

So far, the ham radio software collections at DLARC were for Apple II computers, Atari computers, and DOS machines. I just added two more: for Commodore computers (which, with only three items so far, is admittedly a placeholder. Commodore 64 friends, point me to your radio software!) and for CP/M computers. It might not look like much, but these 10 items of CP/M ham radio software were transferred from 8-inch floppy disks. That was the result of

months of work and patient waiting, the coordination of a team of experts, and several pieces of specialized software and hardware. If you need digipeater software for your CP/M box or want to pore over the source code to the VADCG terminal node communications program, there goes your weekend.

February 2024

Greetings from DLARC World Headquarters, which is increasingly besieged with obsolete media. This month, cassette tapes were added to the stacks of CD-ROMs and floppy disks. There's huge news in these piles — let's get right to it.

The first huge news is about the Ham Radio & More radio show. As I mentioned last month, Len Winkler's radio show, which aired on commercial AM in Arizona, then moved to national syndication, aired from 1991 through 1997. Len digitized 149 episodes of his show years ago, then stopped (probably because the job is tedious and exacting. Can't blame him one bit!) Digitization paused for years, until last month, when he sent the cassette tapes of the episodes that he hadn't digitized. Using two audio digitization workstations running 16 hours a day, I digitized all of the other episodes and added them to DLARC's HR&M collection. I added 169 episodes of the show that haven't been heard since they were first broadcast, for a total of 318 episodes! The collection represents nearly every episode of the show: only a few tapes went missing over the years or were unrepairable.

The new additions include interviews with Wayne Green, Bill Pasternak (this one on the occasion of the 1,000th Amateur Radio Newslines show in 1996 is fun), and Fred Maia of the W5YI Report. Many of the people interviewed on these 30-year-old episodes are Silent Keys now. Two episodes that caught my ear were Gary Froemming talking about longwave listening and Dr. Paul Shuch discussing the search for extraterrestrial intelligence. Oh, and the July 30, 1995 episode about "The Internet" is a special time capsule: it was broadcast just 25 days before Windows 95 was released, which brought (sort of) easy Internet access to a wider public.

The Ham Radio & More collection is 470 hours of programming. I promise you'll find something of interest.

The second huge news is this: DLARC's massive manual scanning project is underway and it's already bringing results. A little backstory: This project began in 2015, when Manuals Plus, a company in Maryland, went out of business. Manuals Plus sold manuals — manuals for laboratory gear, test equipment, scientific instruments, just the most technical gadgets that you could possibly imagine. The story of how the manuals were saved from the recycling bin on

short notice is fascinating (and accompanied by fantastic photos): you can read [part 1](#), [part 2](#), [part 3](#), and [part 4](#).

Then — not much happened with the manuals until August of last year, when I put out a call for volunteers to help sort through them. You see, the Manuals Plus manuals weren't all radio-related, but many were. So our plucky team of volunteers spent a day at the Internet Archive storage site sorting through pallets of manuals, picking out the ones that were at least radio-adjacent, the stuff that falls under the DLARC umbrella. We ended up shipping four pallets of manuals (of 28 bankers boxes each) to one of the Internet Archive's scanning centers. Manuals for signal generators, oscilloscopes, frequency counters, curve tracers, multimeters, sweep circuit analyzers, power supplies, and on and on.

Smash cut to today — the [manuals are being scanned are starting to appear in DLARC](#). As I write this, there are 954 manuals. There will probably be more by the time you read this. When we're done with this first round, there should be about 4,000 manual scans. The scanners expect to be through with this pile in roughly six weeks.

Don't expect to see bog-standard manuals for Yaesu and Icom radios — we getting manuals from Marconi Instruments, Fluke, Sperry Gyroscope, Boonton Radio Company, and other companies from the amazing to the obscure, from the 1940s to the 2000s.

Four pallets, 4,000ish manuals, in a little over a month. The scope is boggling. And, this is just the first batch. There are many more pallets waiting to be scanned later this year.

In medium-sized news, the other Internet Archive scanning center is nearly done scanning five boxes of radio books from MIT that I mentioned last month. Currently there are [84 books in the Radio Books from MIT Libraries collection](#): new additions include bound [annual volumes of The Wireless Age](#), more than a decade's worth of [Year-Books of Wireless Telegraphy & Telephony](#), and a Bell Telephone Laboratories treatise on [shortwave transatlantic radio-telephony](#). Also there's Ralph Preston Clarkson's 1927 light educational/history book "[The Hysterical Background of Radio](#)."

We've also added several club newsletters, including three from California clubs: 101 issues of [Golden Empire Amateur Radio Society "Radiator" newsletter](#), 175 issues of the [East Bay Amateur Radio Club "Blown Fuse" Newsletter](#), and 37 issues of the [Simi Settlers' Amateur Radio Club "Short Circuit" newsletter](#).

Several specialty clubs, focused on subject rather than geography, were added too: 158 issues of the International Morse Preservation Society (FISTS Club) newsletter, 152 issues of the RCA Amateur Radio Club newsletter (for employees and former employees of RCA, GE, Thomson, Technicolor, and others), all 51 issues of the Bicycle Mobile Hams of America newsletter, and 11 issues of "The Packet", the newsletter of the defunct Vancouver Amateur Digital Communications Group.

Pausing for dramatic effect and/or a deep breath... we also added 780+ editions of The Blurb, the newsletter of Phil-Mont (Warminster, Pennsylvania) Mobile Radio Club, going back to 1955 — most of which haven't been online before now ... and 170+ issues of the Hannibal (Missouri) Amateur Radio Club Newsletter, which *not only* weren't available online until now, but club trustee Don Vary KD0HHN bravely rescued from old Iomega Zip disks!

David L. Mills — Internet pioneer, ham (W3HCF), and the man largely behind Network Time Protocol — died last month. I don't know how long his web site will endure, so I made sure it is backed up in The Wayback Machine, and I made a copy of his "scrabble of miscellaneous collquium, seminar and meeting presentations" in a new David L. Mills collection.

Last but not least, DLARC hosts a new collection called "WWCT (Peoria, IL): An Oral History." This labor of love is entirely the work of Tom Arbogast, who documented the history of the Peoria, IL FM station through fifty interviews of people who worked for the station, worked at competing stations, or covered the station in local media. He aptly describes the project as: "Collectively, these interviews represent the oral history of WWCT as told through their memories, experiences, and stories of their experiences at WWCT." It's a beautifully produced record of a commercial radio station that has been part of its community for more than 50 years.

Finally finally, the library has new needs and questions for *you* from the DLARC Wantlist: What was the final issue of Radio Fun magazine? If there were issue numbers greater than 51, we need those. Do you have issues of Amateur Radio Trader magazine? We got the OK to scan all of them, but I don't think many people saved them like they do the glossy radio magazines.

We're also on the hunt for anything from the Montreal (QC) Amateur Radio Club in the late 1970s relating to the development of the first Amateur Radio Packet Radio experiments, especially newsletters; anything from Ottawa (ON) Amateur Radio Club Packet Working Group relating to high speed Packet Radio, especially the "Packet Interface" card that they developed, and any newsletters; anything from the Vancouver Amateur Digital Communications Group (VADCG);

and anything from the Georgia Radio Amateur Packet Enthusiasts Society (GRAPES) regarding the WA4DSY / Heatherington 56k Packet Radio modem.

March 2024

I just ran the numbers: DLARC currently has 112,742 items for you to read, watch, and listen to. We've scanned more than 940,000 pages of books, magazines, journal issues, manuals, and radio catalogs. Other documents not scanned by Internet Archive (such as newsletters provided in PDF format by ham clubs) encompass more than 82,000 documents, 1.4 million pages. Audio items (including podcasts and radio shows) encompass 14,328 items: more than one year of audio material. 7,692 video items, which is now enough that it broke my "how long would it take to watch it all?" script.

Here's a peek into some of what we've added to DLARC in the past month.

It's a big month for radio magazines in the DLARC archive! We have added the complete run — 181 issues — of VHF Communications, a magazine that was published quarterly from 1969 through 2013. It focused on the VHF, UHF, and microwave bands. It was spun off from UKW Berichte, a German radio magazine.

We also added 300+ issues of Monitoring Times, a magazine that covered shortwave, longwave, amateur satellite, military communications, and more obscure radio communications. Monitoring Times was published from 1982 through 2013, and DLARC has a majority of the issues for you to read, search, and download. According to the handy DLARC Wantlist, we still need all the issues from 1982 through 1986, most of 1986 and 1987, and just a handful of issues from the 1990s. Let me know if you have these to share: I want to make this a complete collection.

DLARC also added 154 issues of Mobile Radio Technology, a magazine devoted to land mobile radio, focusing on radio design, FCC and spectrum politics, and other topics related to the technology. Launched in 1983, the magazine was later renamed to Urgent Communications. Our collection hits its stride in 1992 — we still need most issues published from 1983 to 1991. As with VHF Communications and Monitoring Times, you can download them or view them online.

But wait, there's more! DLARC also added 154 issues of Circuit Cellar, a magazine for hardware hackers that spun off from BYTE magazine when BYTE was moving away from hardware projects. There's plenty of interesting radio communications projects in those pages. This was *supposed* to be a nearly

collection, but Fedex apparently lost one of the two boxes of magazines on their way to the scanning center. So again, if you have any issues to donate that aren't one of these 154, please let me know.

I mentioned in January that DLARC had acquired 370 issues of the W5YI Report. If you've somehow managed to read all of those already, I have good news: now we're up to 462 issues. These new issues were donated to the library by the estate of Fred Laun, K3ZO. "America's Oldest Ham Radio Newsletter" was published from 1978 until 2003 by Fred Maia, W5YI. I really want to complete this collection. We still need the earliest years (volumes 1-5), most of 1992 (volume 14) and, well, any issues that you don't see online yet.

Finally, we continue to build our collection of Radio Fun, which was Wayne Green's tabloid-sized "beginner's guide to the exciting world of amateur radio." Published only for a couple of years in the mid-1990s, it was meant to be a bridge into the hobby for newbie hams. We're up to 30 issues scanned, with more in the pipeline. (I'm not sure what was the last issue: if there are issue numbers above #51, we still need those.)

Moving quickly from magazines to newsletters: DLARC has added 536 issues of the Rochester (New York) Amateur Radio Association "RaRa Rag" newsletter from 1973 to the present, 52 issues of Canton (Ohio) Amateur Radio Club "Feedline" newsletter, 182 issues of the Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon (California) "Counterpoise" newsletter, 102 issues of the Northern Kentucky Amateur Radio Club "Feedline" newsletter, 152 issues of the Candlewood (Connecticut) Amateur Radio Association "Capers" newsletter, and EME technical reports from the long-defunct Crawford Hill VHF Club.

(You're not seeing double: yes, we added two newsletters called Feedline from different clubs. For those keeping score at home, there's also the Western Illinois Amateur Radio Club "Feedline" newsletter, which DLARC added last year.)

Remember the Manuals Plus collection that I wrote about last month? At that time, there were 954 manuals. Today, there are 2,450 manuals scanned and online — and the scanning center still has one pallet of manuals to go. (This Weston Model 1292 Bi-Polar Digital Panel Meter manual is a contender for best cover.)

That's a whole lot of reading material. Let's move on for a moment to amateur radio conferences, starting with the TAPR Digital Communications Conference.

I've mentioned before that DLARC has 40 years of papers and presentations from TAPR conferences, including their Digital Communications Conference (DCC) and Computer Networking Conference. Now I'm thrilled to announce that we've added audio recordings of DCC presentations spanning 1996 through 2001: 214 sessions in all!

These well-recorded sessions were found on TAPR Conference CD-ROMs as RealAudio files, an audio format so obsolete that it might as well be Sanskrit. I converted them to MP3 and carefully organized them. The audio fidelity isn't the highest — but a) it's better than SSB on 40 meters; b) it's a small miracle that these recorded presentations exist at all, so let's not quibble about sound quality. The recordings of these presentations can provide so much more detail than the PowerPoint decks and papers alone. From 1996, there's Keith Sproul WU2Z's talk about WinAPRS, recorded not long after version 1.0 of that software was released; and Lyle Johnson WA7GXD's banquet speech about the "Future of Amateur Radio." (Did his predictions come true? Listen and decide for yourself.) In 1997, just a year after the print-your-own-driving-directions service MapQuest.com launched, Tom Clark W3IWI gave a talk called "What is GPS? How does it work and why do I care?"

(And, oops! While writing this I found "DCC1996: Unknown session" which was an unattributed audio file that apparently I forgot to dig into. A DLARC logo sticker goes to whoever tells me who it is and what it's about. Actually, it sounds like it may be multiple short talks.)

FOSDEM (Free and Open Source Software Developers' European Meeting) is an annual event for software developers held in Brussels since 2000. Talks at that conference run the gamut of topics including programming, security, and databases. Often, this con has a radio track: sometimes it's been called Free Software Radio, other times it's called Software-Defined Radio. By any name, FOSDEM's more than 130 FOSDEM Radio Presentations are now available in DLARC, complete with videos and, when available, slide decks. There are countless interesting talks such as 2018's "Bring-your-own-radio hacking session" and 2022's "Emitting Hellschreiber from a Raspberry Pi GPIO." (Today I learned that hellerschreiber is a morse-like graphical transmission of digital data reminiscent of fax over wireless used during the second world war by the German military.)

Internet Archive just launched "Lists", a new feature that any logged-in user can use to organize Internet Archive item into personal collections. For instance, you might create a list of your favorite radio books, or groups of items on related niche topics. Lists can be private (like a set of bookmarked items just for you) or public (to share the item collections you create with the world.) Here's more

information about Lists. I started a list called Best of DLARC, highlighting some of the great resources in our radio library. It was a challenge to limit it to just a couple dozen items. What do you think should be part of that list?

April 2024

Happy spring from the Digital Library of Amateur Radio & Communications. If you're just tuning in: I'm Kay, the person who is lucky enough to oversee the creation of this unparalleled online library of ham radio and related communications. Here are some the latest additions to the DLARC library.

The Manuals Plus collection scanning project is in the home stretch: the scanning center is working on the fourth and final (well, for now) pallet of radio-related manuals that were rescued from a warehouse in 2015. Last month I noted that the collection had 2,450 manuals — today, there are 3,771 manuals from that collection scanned and online. I've found everything from a skinny 20-page manual for the Weston Model 1092 Sensitrol relay to a nearly-1000 page behemoth operation manual for the IFR COM-120B Communications Service Monitor.

Also new in DLARC are two issues of SSTV Today, a newsletter devoted to slow scan television. I learned about SSTV Today through the obituary of its publisher, Ron Flynn KB8LU. Mr. Flynn passed away at the age of 82 on February 22. Among many other accomplishments and interests that were part of a life well-lived, the obit mentioned his newsletter. I wrote a letter to his family. His widow Patricia wrote back a lovely letter: "Because my husband was legally blind, I was quite involved with his computer work, and accompanied him several times to the Dayton, OH amateur radio convention. I have found two copies of SSTV Today, and will gladly give them to you for the archives." The two issues that she sent were v1n4 from November 1983, and v2n7 from July 1984. You'll find dot-matrix printouts, a report from Dayton Hamvention, and ads for SSTV gadgets (some of which seem astoundingly expensive when price adjusted for inflation!) Of course I'm dying to find other issues of SSTV Today to add to the DLARC library. I've added them to the ever-changing DLARC Wantlist.

I learned about Cornbread Road — Jeff Davis KE9V's audio-format ham radio mystery — here in the pages of Zero Retries. Davis released the episodes in 2010, but it was difficult to find them online recently. KE9V agreed to re-release Cornbread Road — all 13 episodes plus the hard-to-find epilogue — on DLARC. His intriguing blurb for the series: "Deep in the Heartland a small group of ham radio enthusiasts enjoy an idyllic existence of wide open spaces, no antenna restrictions, low-noise levels, simple living, and good fellowship. But things aren't exactly as they seem. Unexplained lights in the night sky, radio signals

masked from the ether, strange late night visitors to this small farming community..."

How's your Portuguese? I ask because DLARC just added 46 issues of Revista QSO, a free monthly publication published in Brazil. The magazine is aimed at radio amateurs, and also covers related subjects such as electronics, robotics, programming, drones, and 3D printing. The "zeroth" issue was published in 2011, but the magazine hit its stride with a more regular publishing schedule in 2020.

How's your Polish? My Internet Archive colleague Jason Scott has been archiving all sorts of public domain works in the Polish language: that collection is closing in on a half-million items. A small subset of that material is about radio, so I pulled those into a Radio Books in Polish collection: 164 items so far, including many issues of "Krótkofalowiec Polski" — that's Shortwave Polski, a monthly magazine devoted to Polish amateur radio — and "Radiotechnik," an "illustrated monthly popular-technical magazine devoted to radio engineering and related fields." Most of this material spans the years 1928 through 1939.

Switching back to the English language, we've added 125 newsletters from the North East Weak Signal Group N.E.W.S. Letter. Based in Longmeadow, Massachusetts, NEWSG is a flock of VHF/UHF/SHF enthusiasts. We have their newsletter going back to 1996. I've also added 20 recent issues of the National Radio Club DX News newsletter, bringing the number of issues in that collection to 2,763, going back to the group's founding in 1933. National Radio Club is the oldest and largest club dedicated to medium wave DX.

Speaking of old clubs, the Fort Wayne Radio Club has been around for more than 100 years. Bob Streeter W8ST just uploaded more than 50 issues of that group's newsletter, Allen County Ham News.

The WA7BNM Contest Calendar provides detailed information about amateur radio contests around the world, including their scheduled dates/times, rules summaries, log submission information and links to the official rules. Bruce Horn WA7BNM has been providing this service for the amateur community since 1998(!) He serves up this contest information in a variety of formats, including a weekly newsletter. At my request, Bruce dug through the database and managed scrape up the newsletters going back to 2002. Thanks to his meticulous research and keeping old data, DLARC now has a searchable record of ham radio contests — 1147 weekly newsletters, going back 22 years.

We've added a collection of vintage documents from Eastnet Packet, a packet radio group that's been around for decades: look here for Flexnet and IGATE manuals and other good stuff.

Believe it or not, this isn't even close to a complete list of everything we've added to DLARC since I wrote last month. For instance, there's a nearly constant influx of recent amateur radio newsletters from around the world. The scanning centers in Fort Wayne and Boston are always ingesting new material. There are partially-finished projects in the works that I will tell you about later this year. I encourage you to go to the DLARC homepage to search or browse for your favorite radio topic. If you don't know where to start, follow the advice of N3VEM who said on Mastodon, "So here's a fun thing to do — go to @dlarc section of the Internet Archive and do a search on your own callsign, and see what pops up." (Tip: choose the "Search text contents" button for the deepest search.)

May 2024

There's so much new stuff in the DLARC library this month! I hardly know where to begin.

The Manuals Plus scanning project is complete!! (Well, *for now*!) Four pallets of radio and radio-adjacent manuals are completely scanned, online, searchable, and downloadable: 4,294 manuals in all. (In February I estimated the lot would be about 4,000 manuals. My guess wasn't too far off. I also estimated the project would take six weeks, which turns out was optimistic.) The batch includes manuals for wonderfully esoteric hardware, a majority of which I bet had little to no reliable information online until now. Please explore the collection. Maybe there's a manual for an obscure gadget that's in your ham shack.

Do you want more manuals like these to be scanned? We can make it happen, with your help. Internet Archive has many more pallets of unsorted manuals just waiting to be scanned. You can help get them to the scanning center. We've negotiated a situation where, if money is donated, the remaining manuals can be sent for scanning without us having to pre-sort them like we did for the first four pallets. DLARC will fund the scanning of manuals that overlap with our mission, and plenty of non-radio manuals will be scanned too. If you want to help, here is a special donation link. If you're in the U.S., donations are tax deductible.

The other Big News Item is the new DX-peditions collection. The California Historical Radio Society contributed all sorts of material documenting DX-

peditions from the early 1960s through the mid 1990s. The media they sent included videotapes, cassette tapes, 35mm slides, and one reel-to-reel tape.

The videotapes went to my colleague Jason, who digitized all 60-plus of them. These little trip documentaries provide fascinating glimpses into far-off places and long-gone people. Look at all those old cars, planes, and radios! Meanwhile, I handled the audio: four dozen recordings about trips to Kingman Reef, Pitcairn Islands, Burundi, the Galapagos, and all manner of other far-flung locales.

Yes, I handled the reel-to-reel tape, which turned out to contain a fascinating account by Frank Turek DL7FT (SK) about DX-peditions he made from 1963 to 1975. The 35mm slides (many of which are meant to accompany the audiotapes) haven't been digitized yet: we hope to be able to scan them sometime this summer. (As you might imagine, properly scanning thousands of slides takes specialized equipment and processes.)

A tangent: snuck in with the DX-pedition videotapes are a few off-topic but very cool videos worth checking out: here's A Message from Barry Goldwater K7UGA, a short interview with the opinionated, radio-loving senator. And, take a minute to watch Pile Up Busters, a playful parody of Ray Parker Jr.'s "Ghostbusters" theme.

Another update — I had written in February that we had 84 books in the Radio Books from MIT Libraries collection — public domain books and journals about radio that were donated to DLARC by MIT libraries and scanned by us. I thought that collection was complete — until the folks from MIT asked if we wanted scans of another 25 books: books that are so rare or fragile that the librarians thought it wasn't a good idea to ship them, so they scanned them there. These new additions of old books include The Maintenance of Wireless Telegraph Apparatus (1918), Wireless Apparatus Making: a practical handbook on the design, construction, and operation of apparatus for the reception of wireless messages (1923), and several items in French and German.

Let's talk radio conferences: DLARC has added material from the emcomm-focused Comm Academy and ham-focused Pacificon.

Comm Academy (originally called Communications Academy) was a free training conference for people interested in developing emergency communications skills. The first Communications Academy took place in 1998. Based in the Pacific Northwest, Comm Academy was primarily a regional event organized by the Western Washington Medical Services Emergency Communications team. Over the years, it gained a reputation as one of the West Coast's premier

emergency communications training events. The final Comm Academy event was held April 2022. This conference ran for an impressive two decades, and DLARC now has more than 400 items from the entire span of the show, including PowerPoint presentations, papers, and video recordings of some talks. There is amazing material that we can all learn from here, all full-text searchable. As I was uploading the items and adding the metadata, a few jumped out at me, including Captain Andy Stevermer's 2007 presentation "Pandemic Response - Would Communications Make a Difference?" and Carolyn Driedger's 2012 talk "Preparing for Future Volcanic Eruptions — Mt. St. Helens Lessons Learned" ... (Kay types, worriedly watching the volcano visible outside the window.)

DLARC has added material from Pacificon, an annual amateur radio convention produced by the Mount Diablo (California) Amateur Radio Club. The collection includes schedules and flyers for the show going back to 2011, videos of some presentations, some slide decks. (The 2024 Pacificon show will be October 18-20 in San Ramon, California. I hope to be there.)

I've continued the hunt for lost audio treasures in the TAPR Software Library CD-ROMs (1996, 1997, and 1998) and boy howdy are there some gems! I want to send bouquets of flowers to whoever recorded those talks so well and then put them on CD-ROMs so that I could find them nearly 30 years later. I don't even hold a grudge against them for making me convert the files from RealAudio format to MP3.

Here's a circa 1987 interview about packet radio with Lyle Johnson WA7GXD, co-founder of TAPR. Here's audio of 14 talks from the 2002 Digital Communications Conference, including sessions about software defined radio and Direct Digital Synthesis. Here's a handful of presentations from the 6th Annual TPRS Fall Digital Symposium, presented by the Texas Packet Radio Society in December 1997. Here's audio from several sessions from HamCom 1996 Digital Forum, including DXng by Packet, and "how to step up to 9600 bps easily and inexpensively." And here's audio from some sessions at TAPR Digital Forum at Dayton Hamvention 1996, which includes a talk by Phil Karn KA9Q called "A High-Performance Satellite Modem for the PC." Listen to them all! Read the transcriptions! The past is the future.

Finally: as soon as I heard the news that MFJ would be winding down, I updated DLARC's MFJ library with new manuals, newsletters, and videos from their YouTube channel.

And lest you forget, here's that special donation link that will help us get more pallets of obscure manuals scanned. The Internet Archive and DLARC thank you.

July 2024

Greetings from DLARC World Headquarters, which has three big things going for it: a fast Internet connection, air conditioning, and cats to pet. In the past few weeks, I've added a wide variety of ham radio material to DLARC. Here's a peek at some of it.

The DX Bulletin (TDXB) was written and published by Jim Cain, K1TN. He published 324 issues from 1979 to 1986. He scanned the entire run — about 1500 pages — years ago. The scans have been hosted by The Yasme Foundation, a non-profit that conducts scientific and educational projects related to amateur radio. Mr. Cain and Ward Silver of The Yasme Foundation agreed it would be a good idea to make the newsletters available at DLARC as well. Mr. Cain told me that in retrospect, the name The DX Bulletin was too generic — many other publications have had similar names over the years — and maybe he should have titled it “Jim Cain's Weekly DX Screed.” By any name, it's a fascinating read and DLARC is better for its inclusion.

Cain is also the author of the book “YASME, The Danny Weil and Colvin Radio Expeditions” which is now downloadable from DLARC with his permission. From the back-of-book blurb: “This is the history of three travelers spanning the birth of YASME — the boat that carried young sailor Danny Weil on his first voyages beginning in 1954 — and the lives of famed ham radio DXpeditioners Lloyd and Iris Colvin.”

DLARC has added 217 issues of the “Blown Fuse” newsletter from the East Bay Amateur Radio Club out of El Cerrito, California. Some of them were PDFs on their web site. For the older issues that were only available on paper, the club lent us a hefty stack of newsletters to scan, some of which go all the way back to 1964. We've also added 113 issues of the Minnesota Amateur Radio Technical Society newsletter. The 12-year-old group is based in Minnetonka, MN.

Sometimes a simple newsletter donation turns into a whole little project. California Historical Radio Society donated, and we scanned, 35 issues of Spark Gap Times, which was the newsletter of the Old, Old Timer's Club. That organization started in 1947. At the time, the requirement for membership was proof of two-way communication by wireless 40 or more years *prior* to 1947. I can only assume that specific requirement was relaxed as the years passed.

The OOTC web site is gone now (replaced by a spammy ad for a sportsbook) and I guess that the organization is now defunct. The OOTC site's last capture in

the Wayback Machine was just this May. So I scoured the site in Wayback, found another 44 issues of Spark Gap Times, and added those to the collection too. Thanks to the California Historical Radio Society for the donation of those first 35 issues which started me down this rabbit hole.

Here's a special treat for our esteemed editor, Steve Stroh: last year he donated three issues of the Texas Packet Radio Society "Quarterly Report" newsletter. TPRS was devoted to radio digital communications, and the creators of TexNet, a wireline/wireless hybrid networking project. Based on their site in The Wayback Machine, the group lasted from roughly 1996 to 2003ish. I scrounged 15 more newsletter issues from their Wayback'd web site and created the TPRS Quarterly Report newsletter collection. If you have more issues in any format, please let me know.

I was sorry to learn that Allen Katz K2UYH died in June. Katz was the publisher of 432 And Above EME News, and was a professor of electrical and computer engineering at The College of New Jersey. I am grateful that he gave permission to archive his newsletter in DLARC before he passed.

Somehow I've managed to write almost entirely about newsletters so far. Moving on to other topics.

DLARC has added all 99 episodes of the Ham Radio 360 podcast. This podcast ran from 2014-2018: it was a bi-weekly show created "for the new guy" hosted by Cale Nelson K4CDN. (Nelson recently launched a new podcast called PrepComms.)

Software Defined Radio Academy is an annual conference, since 2015, that covers all aspects of SDR. The hosts have done an admirable job of recording their conference's presentations over the years, and now those talks are archived in DLARC.

Meanwhile, the Internet Archive's scanning centers have been hard at work scanning thousands of magazines and books, which can be checked out using controlled digital lending in the DLARC Library. It would be folly to try to list them all, but I encourage you to browse around and see what's new. Of particular note are many books and journals about microwave communications, which were a generous donation from the family of James Beyer W9ADJ, who was a specialist in that field.

If you'll permit me a paragraph about a personal project that's only tangentially ham radio related: I found, recovered and digitized 53 episodes of "The Famous Computer Cafe", a radio show about home computers that was broadcast from

1983-1985. The hosts interviewed many of the big tech names of the day: Microsoft founder Bill Gates, Apple's Bill Atkinson, Atari VP James Copland, author Timothy Leary, author Douglas Adams, and more. From the news segments to the commercials, the shows are a perfect time capsule of the world of home computers in that era. One of the interviewees is Steve Roberts, a ham radio operator. From 1983 to 1991, he explored the United States on a computerized, radio-equipped recumbent bicycle named BEHEMOTH.

Next week I'll be leaving the cats and climate-controlled comfort of DLARC World Headquarters for Denver Colorado to retrieve pallets of material from the estate of Bob Cooper. Bob was an expert in satellite and cable TV communications, and publisher of Coops Satellite Digest. I already have a little start of a Bob Cooper collection in DLARC, but there's sure to be much more in the coming months as we begin to process and digitize what I find in Denver.

August 2024

Hello from — not DLARC World Headquarters as usual, but from 30,000 feet somewhere over the midwest United States. I'm headed back to HQ following a successful field trip to collect radio books and manuals for the Digital Library of Amateur Radio & Communications. With that in mind, this column will be less "What's New at DLARC" and more "What I Did This Summer."

Months ago, I read in Amateur Radio Weekly that Fair Radio Sales, a radio surplus store in Lima, Ohio, would be closing. After running the place for more than 40 years, the proprietor Phillip Sellati is ready for a well-deserved retirement. I reached out to Phillip to ask if he would donate leftover radio books and manuals to DLARC. He agreed. Flash forward to last weekend, when two assistants and I arrived at Fair Radio's massive warehouse in beautiful Lima. Phillip gave us carte blanche to take everything we wanted for DLARC.

I can hardly express how large this warehouse is and how much reading material was available for us: commercial radio manuals. military documents, avionics repair guides, parts catalogs, schematics... on shelves and in stacks and filling up filing cabinets. It took our three-person team two ten-hour days to box it all up. I rented a U-Haul van and drove the material directly to Internet Archive's scanning center, about an hour and a half away in Fort Wayne, Indiana. In two round trips I delivered about 200 boxes of radio reading material to the scanning center.

When I needed a little break from driving and boxing up manuals, I took a few minutes to explore the massive warehouse. Soooo many radios and gear, literally stacked to the rafters. I noticed once-upon-a-time top-of-the-line

Kenwood ham gear and military radios seemingly going back to WWI. All guarded by a very good old dog named Reagan. You can see some pictures from the trip (yes, including Reagan.)

Fair Radio was among the last of the great surplus places. Check out their web site while you can. We at DLARC are deeply grateful to Mr. Sellati for his generous donation of material. He was especially kind in giving us access before everything else went to auction August 15-17.

The scanning center will start on the Fair Radio material soon, but it will certainly take them months to get it all done, interspersed with their other scanning work. I'll keep you updated as their work progresses.

The expedition to Fair Radio was actually my second away mission for DLARC this summer. In July, I flew to Denver to sort through the collection of Robert Cooper. This time, I was on my own, digging through seven pallets of material from the estate of Mr. Cooper. He was a ham, but was primarily known as an expert in satellite and cable TV communications. In the '80s, he was one of the first people to figure out that HBO transmitted its satellite signals unencrypted. He published an article about how anyone could set up a satellite dish in their backyard to get free TV. These ideas led to an entire industry of TVRO (television, receive only) satellite dishes, lawsuits, and a years-long escalating war of scrambled signals and television descramblers. That whole story arc is well-documented by the various print publications and television programs that Coop produced.

So there I was in a warehouse in Denver, trying to get a grip on all that material. Magazines and books and videotapes, but also decades of personal correspondence, project notes, business records, photographs, and legal paperwork. To his credit, Mr. Cooper saved *everything*. It was my job to decide what was worthy of being preserved. It took three days in the warehouse, but in the end, I shipped off 18 boxes of videotapes and 21 boxes of magazines and books to the scanning centers. I sent another two big boxes of CD-ROMs and DVDs and various other media to myself at DLARC World Headquarters to dig through later.

As that material gets digitized, the Bob Cooper collection in DLARC is growing. It's early, but you can already find there the complete run of Coop's Satellite Digest, Cooper's magazine covering the birth of the home satellite industry. It was published from October 1979 through April 1987. And, a complete run of SatFacts, his publication covering the world of satellite television in the Pacific and Asia, published from September 1994 through August 2004. And, the complete run of Community Antenna Television Journal, which was published

from 1974 through 1979. AND the entire run of Cooper James Report, also known as CSD2, a short-lived publication directed at TVRO manufacturers and distributors. It was published from August 1983 through September 1985, concurrent with the publication of Coop's Satellite Digest.

That's the tip of the iceberg: Cooper had many more publications and projects. There will be a whole lot more in the coming months as we continue to process and digitize what I found in Denver.

I talk even more about both of these away missions on the Store & Forward podcast, my new podcast with Zero Retries editor Steve Stroh. You can hear the audio versions in your favorite podcast app, or watch the video version, hosted at DLARC, naturally.

September 2024

Material from Bob Cooper's estate continues to get digitized, and boy is it paying dividends. One of Coop's many publications over the years was Coop's Technology Digest, a "confidential industry newsletter" published ten times a year. It's filled with super interesting contemporary news about television, radio, and the internet. Unsolicited Email Overloads Internet! Titanic Released on VHS! 51-53 MHz Problems Between New Zealand Radio Operators and Ministry of Commerce! It's all there. 91 issues of the digest were published: the first issue was August 8, 1991, the last was August 29 2002. I found a majority of the issues in the Denver warehouse — all scanned and online now — but somehow we're missing 19 issues, tantalizingly close to a complete set. Making matters tricky is that the newsletter was published out of New Zealand and it had a pretty small subscription base (about 150-200 subscribers.) Other than DLARC, it only seems to be available in one library in New Zealand. I've added those issues to the DLARC Wantlist.

More than a decade before that, Coop published Community Antenna Television Journal "as a service to the CATV/MATV industries serving the American television viewing public." (I knew CATV meant cable television. I didn't know that MATV stands for Master Antenna Television, referring to a system where multiple television sets, typically in a large building or complex, are connected to a central antenna or satellite dish.) Although the journal is about cable tv, I am *positive* there are amazing ideas and history in these pages for amateur television enthusiasts. The first issue was 1974. We have online every issue through June 1979, then only some issues after that date. I don't know when he stopped publishing CATJ — we have some 1986 issues, so at least that long.

And two decades before *that*, Bob Cooper was writing for the American Ionospheric Propagation Association's newsletter, "TV-DX". The AIPA was a club for TV and FM DXers — enthusiasts who tried to receive standard television and radio signals from as far away as possible. The group was founded in 1953 and lasted until 1963. Thanks to Bob's estate, we have 60 issues of the TV-DX newsletter. It's hard to know exactly, but if that isn't every issue the group published, it's pretty close. Cooper began writing for that newsletter in 1954 at age 16.

In non-Coop news, the California Historical Radio Society has also been inundating us with amazing material. I'm particularly intrigued with The Low Band Monitor, a newsletter devoted exclusively to 160m, 80m & 40m DXing. It was published by Steve Gecewicz K0CS under the pen name "Lance Johnson". He passed away in 2021 at the age of 73. K0CS wrote extensively about DXpeditions, contests, and sunspots. He started publishing Monitor in 1993, and it ran through at least 2001. But we have only 18 issues, though 1996. I'd love to find more issues of this little publication.

CHRS also sent us a bunch of tapes of CHRS Radio News, an audio newsletter that was published by that group. It featured interviews, segments on radio history, and clips of old-time radio. (Bonus: I digitized the tapes at my new stand-up desk digitizing station.)

CHRS also sent us an ARRL Emergency Communications public service announcement on an adorably tiny reel of 16mm film. Our friends at Prelinger Archives digitized it for us. It's a little 30-second ad for ham radio featuring Pernell Roberts and Gregory Harrison, stars of Trapper John, M.D, shot on that set.

When I schlepped 200 boxes of books and manuals from Fair Radio Sales to the digitizing center, I handed them one special box and asked them to prioritize it. Sure enough, here it is: scans of 76 Fair Radio Sales catalogs published from 1970 through 2011. These catalogs are a crazy glimpse into the various radio and electronics surplus items sold from their Lima Ohio warehouse over the course of 41 years.

Speaking of catalogs: Recently added to the Ham Radio Outlet Catalog library is the oldest HBO catalog that we have so far: Spring/Summer 1995. Considering that the company has been around since 1971, it seems like we have a lot of catalogs left to add. Do you have any stashed away?

The 2024 EME (Earth-Moon-Earth) conference took place last month in Trenton, NJ. I've added all of the the papers and slide decks from that event to DLARC's

[International EME Conference archive](#). They didn't record the talks, but you can learn a lot by browsing the papers and PowerPoint decks of presentations like [432Mhz Moonbounce with a Small Dish](#) and [EME at the Deep Space Exploration Society](#). The next EME con will be held in 2026 in Tenerife, Canary Islands. Sorry for this hot take, but that seems like a more enticing destination than New Jersey.

I haven't mentioned it much in Zero Retries because ya'll want ham radio and not *college* radio, but there's a whole lot of historical interconnection between the two. My colleague Jennifer Waits has been working on DLARC's [college radio collection](#), now nearly 1,600 items strong, that includes radio station program guides, flyers, playlists, 'zines, correspondence, books, academic theses, and magazines. Almost all of this material is freshly digitized, never online before, including 90+ issues of the [Intercollegiate Broadcasting System's Journal of College Radio](#). Here's Jennifer's [blog post with more info](#) about DLARC's College Radio collection.

This final item is a tease, a tantalizing peek into a collection that's coming to DLARC later this year. Check out these [QSL Pennants and Radio Stickers](#). Most hams know about QSL cards, but perhaps fewer are familiar with QSL pennants: decorative flags or banners for radio stations. I scanned this collection of pennants as part of a much larger collection of shortwave material that I'm excited to tell you more about soon.

Next month I'll be at Pacificon in California, giving a presentation about DLARC and hanging out at the DLARC booth. Come say hi. First, I need to create some materials for the booth. I'd like to print some brief quotes about how people have benefitted from the materials they've found in the library. So if you'd like to provide some feedback about how DLARC has helped you, please shoot a me quick message at the email address below.

October 2024

Happy November from DLARC World Headquarters. October was a month of both challenges and successes. Let's dive in.

On the positive end of the spectrum: my visit to Pacificon. It was my first time at that ham radio conference, which was first held in 1920. I had a booth for DLARC, where I got to tell hundreds of folks about the project. It didn't take long to hone my pitch down to just five enticing words: "FREE ONLINE HAM RADIO LIBRARY." I handed out flyers and stickers, gave two presentations, and enjoyed a libation with our esteemed editor Steve Stroh. (Steve and I talk a lot more

about our reactions to Pacificon in the new episode of the Store & Forward podcast.)

On the more challenging edge of the spectrum, Internet Archive (where DLARC lives) was either completely down or terribly hobbled for most of the month after a denial of service attack and a hack. The site is getting back to normal now. As I write this, logins and uploads aren't enabled yet, so if things don't seem quite right when you look at the items that I mention below — they're working on it, try again a little later.

Material from Bob Cooper's estate continues to pour in. I recently added 215 issues of The 50 MHz DX Bulletin from Bob's collection. This was a newsletter dedicated to the understanding and utilization of long distance propagation in the 6-meter amateur radio band, founded by Harry Schools KA3B, then taken over by Victor Frank K6FV. Headlines include "Six Meters Opens to Antarctica!" (November 1993) and "R.I.P. Magic Band?" (April 2008.) The newsletter was published from 1990 through at least the end of 2008. We have most of 1991 through 2008, but we're missing all of 1990, and some of 1991, and post-2008 issues (if those were even published.) Do you have them?

Coop was a prolific writer and publisher himself. You can see some of his earliest work in a the new Bob Cooper's Early Publications collection. There you'll find issues of CB Horizons, DXing Horizons, VHF Horizons, Television Horizons, Communication Horizons, Video Communication Journal, and TV and Communications magazines. These publications span 1960 through 1964. In those four years, Cooper seemed to weave between topics and publication titles as he sought to find his footing and audience in the realm of radio and TV communications. I expect to have more to report from the Cooper trove next time.

In the mean time, we have Tedd Mirgliotta KB8NW to thank for a complete collection of every issue — all 1,795 issues — of the Ohio/Penn DX Bulletin. Focused on amateur radio DX news, Ohio/Penn DX Bulletin was one of the first free amateur radio bulletins to be distributed on packet clusters and the internet. It was published by Mirgliotta for an astounding 31 years — 1991 through 2022.

Here's the part that just warms my archivist heart: 232 of the issues in DLARC *have never been on the Internet before*. Those first 232 issues were distributed on packet radio and dial-up BBSes, but that was so early in the birth of the Internet that they were never posted on the web. Earlier this year, Mirgliotta answered my request to dig into his stack of old hard drives. He found the earliest issues so they could be shared in the DLARC library.

I also added 109 issues of the Northern Ohio DX Association "Rag" newsletter from 2003 to the present. NODXA is an amateur radio DX club in the Cleveland, Ohio area.

Here's a fun newsletter covering the fringe end of radio. Numbers & Oddities, also known as The Spooks Newsletter, covers the fascinating world of numbers stations and all kinds of odd signals heard on HF. Sometimes reaching hundreds of pages per issue, the contributors are meticulous about notating the specifics of the weird stuff they hear on the air.

Last month I teased an item, a collection of vintage QSL Pennants and Radio Stickers. I'm excited to share the rest of this new collection with you: Chuck Vesei Shortwave Radio Artifacts. This collection has a great backstory: While he was in high school in the 1980s, Chuck Vesei was fascinated with shortwave radio and DXing. He listened to shortwave broadcasts from around the world and mailed away to the far-flung radio stations that he heard on his Uniden CR-201 radio. Those stations mailed Chuck broadcasting schedules, QSL cards, reception report forms, newsletters, stickers, pennants, and other ephemera. This is Chuck's collection of shortwave radio material, which he collected from 1984 to 1986. (Want more details? I wrote a longer version of the story for Internet Archive's blog.)

California Historical Radio Society donated to DLARC some material from the estate of Jim Maxwell, W6CF. Jim was once the ARRL's west coast director. The CHRS Jim Maxwell, W6CF Collection includes about three dozen items, an interesting mix of audio and videotapes, which we digitized. Among them is a 1994 video of Jim giving a presentation titled "The Golden Years of DX" at River City Amateur Radio Communications Society. It's one of a variety of bits of amateur radio history from the 1980s and 1990s.

If you prefer something a little older, I present this new addition to DLARC: 761 issues of The Telegraphic Journal and Electrical Review, spanning 1872 to 1891. We have every issue of this publication, scanned from microfilm. 150 years ago, the publication explored the development of battery power, advancements in the telegraph, and the growth of "telephonic communications." If you can get past language that is both old-timey and technical: "We were recently informed by a friend that certain well-known firms who were using the electric light in large works had found that the younger illuminant was cheaper to them than gas had been. This, of course, was an item of much interest to us, and we desired to obtain particulars and definite figures to lay before our readers." The pages are filled with fascinating history — like the 1883 Telegraphers' strike. The operators demanded higher salaries and "fewer hours of labour." Before the strike, a

telegraph operator might earn 34 cents per hour; they wanted a 30% increase. Also, workers demanded that both sexes shall receive equal pay for equal work.

One last thing: we just added a pretty new marquee to the [DLARC home page](#). This is a just-developed feature at Internet Archive, to help visitors get oriented to what could be an overwhelming amount of material. There's a new "Collection Highlights" section to marquee some of the most popular and interesting items in the library. Let me know what you think of it.

November 2024

Ooh la la and *вот это да*, it's a very international What's New at DLARC, with new material added to the free online ham radio library from soviet Russia, France, and New Zealand.

This first new collection is amazing, one-of-a-kind material that's never been available online before (and was barely available to anyone offline, either.) This is the kind of thing that makes me proud to be curator of DLARC, and it comes with a great story.

The [Translations of Russian Amateur Radio Publications](#) collection offers English translated summaries of the Soviet amateur radio publication "Radio" and radio-related articles in the Sovetskiy Patriot newspaper.

These summary translations were done by Dexter Anderson (K3KWJ, W1STN, W4KM) as a way to practice his Russian language skills. He did this privately, on his own time, and circulated them to a few hams and DXers that he knew.

Fred Laun (K3ZO) was one of those friends, who meticulously kept every issue that he received. The typewritten pages cover Russian publications from June 1979 through the end of 2000. Now 24 years later, Dexter Anderson's 20-plus-year hobby provides unique insight into the world of amateur radio in Russia during and after the cold war.

These 120+ summary documents (some just a page or two long, some a dozen pages or more) provide fascinating glimpses into the world of radio at that time and place.

For instance, the September 1980 article "[Struggle for Clean Airwaves](#)": "In my work I monitor frequencies used to report on urgent situations at sea. I think there's no need to explain why strict observance of radio discipline is necessary when people's lives may be at stake due to a sinking ship. Nonetheless a day doesn't go by when the "operation" of radiohooligans is not heard on these

frequencies 1600-3800 kHz. Radiohooligans, as a rule, do not heed a request to terminate operation. On the one hand they apparently feel they can't be caught or punished, and on the other hand by no means every illegal can hear official stations, since he is operating with AM (if you can call what takes place within his homemade equipment "modulation") and the official stations are using A3A or A3J. But this can in no way serve as an excuse, since the issue here is not receiving technology but the unacceptability of the existence of radiohooliganism in general. One has the impression that in a number of places the fight against radiohooliganism is being waged not actively enough, that counter-measures are not being taken, publicity is not being used, that the public is not being brought in to the struggle. And yet radioamateurs could be of great help to the organs of radiocontrol. I believe "foxhunters" could be brought in in the fight against radiohooligans. Those wishing to become radioamateurs and to receive individual call-signs could be included in raids in the cities and oblasts. Let this form of work for society become one of the deciding factors for passing upon applications for call-signs or higher grades of license."

(I now love the word radiohooligans, which definitely should be used more.)

Last year I put out a [call for help](#) here in Zero Retries for someone fluent in French who could help sort out contact information for the publishers of French radio magazines. Grégoire SA6DTZ offered his assistance and helped find the person behind Soracom, which published several radio mags. Soracom is out of business but publisher Florence Faurez F6FYP gave permission to include in DLARC [Megahertz Magazine](#), [ABC Electronique](#), and [ABC de la CB](#).

With her gracious approval, DLARC has every issue of [Megahertz](#), which covered amateur radio, amateur television, microcomputers, electronics, and related topics; I *think* every issue of [ABC Electronique](#), which covered the basics of building electronics; and just three issues of citizen's band radio mag [ABC de la CB](#). (We are missing issues of that one, I've added it to the [DLARC Wantlist](#).) Megahertz is the jewel of the bunch: the magazine ran from 1982 through 2008. I can't read French, but do enjoy looking at the photos and diagrams of radios and home computers.

In what seems like an unusual business pivot, Mme Faurez told me they stopped publishing activity in 1995 and converted to dog breeding, focusing exclusively on the Coton de Tulear breed.

If you need even more radio magazines in French: DLARC also has [Ham-Mag](#) and [Ondes Magazine](#).

We added 308 issues of Break-In, the journal of the New Zealand Association of Radio Transmitters. I received the issues, some on paper and some on CD-ROM, from the estate of Bob Cooper, who lived in New Zealand for many years. NZART is a membership organization, so I reached out to them for permission to make their magazine available in DLARC. They graciously gave their OK, with the caveat that the magazine would be available for reading online, not downloadable. That's something Internet Archive can do. So, thanks to Coop and NZART, issues spanning January 1974 through December 2010 are available for your perusal. You'll need a free Internet Archive account to read them.

Finally, closer to home (my home, at least) DLARC also added 162 issues of "The Heterodyne", the newsletter of the West Valley Amateur Radio Association, based in San Jose, California.

December 2024

Greetings and happy holidays from DLARC, your free online ham radio library that is a project of the Internet Archive. Internet Archive is a non-profit library, and we're running our big end-of-year fundraiser. If you make a donation using this special link, the fundraising folks will know that you're contributing with DLARC in mind. Your donation will help pay for staff and keep the petabytes of servers humming.

I was just running the numbers for the year, and was thrilled to see that through the end of November 2024, DLARC scanned 1,123,546 pages of material! That's 1.1 million pages of radio manuals, journals and magazines, newsletters, books, and catalogs. All of it is online and full-text searchable. (That's only counting paper scans — we also digitized hundreds of video and audio tapes.) It's been a productive year.

I learned from Amateur Radio Daily about a Japanese radio show with the (mildly confusing?) name of Ham's Radio. Ham's Radio is a program broadcast from Radio Narita near Tokyo. It's been going weekly since 2013, featuring news and interviews about the world of amateur radio from a Japanese perspective. Recent episodes have covered DMR radios, direction finding, Japanese ham festivals, and the poetic topic "Long Autumn Nights on 6m."

I reached out the producer Kei (pronounced just like my name) Yoshihara (JA1WTO) who gladly gave permission to add the program to DLARC. Which I did: 623 episodes are archived for your listening pleasure. A backup is great, but DLARC likes to add extra value whenever possible, so I added full transcripts of every episode. And since the show notes are written in Japanese, I used

machine translation to add English versions of the show notes. I hope this will help researchers and hobbyists who don't speak Japanese find some of the incredible material Ham's Radio has broadcast over the past 11 years.

One of the many great things that we've been processing from the estate of Bob Cooper are many issues of VHF-UHF Digest, the newsletter of the Worldwide TV-FM DX Association. The WTFDA is a club devoted to TV and FM DXing, DX 30-50mhz utilities, and weather radio. Last year the group provided DLARC with a pretty complete collection of newsletter scans going back to 1968 — we added those in April of 2023. But some of their scans were...kind of rough. Low resolution, or black and white, or hard to read, just not optimal. So when I found stacks of the paper newsletters in Coop's collection, I jumped at the chance to make better scans of the material, and now, here they are.

Speaking of Coop, I'm continuing to add all sorts of material to the Bob Cooper collection. Here's a pile of radio commercials that aired in New Zealand around 2010. Here's Cooper's memoir, Television's Pirates: Hiding Behind Your Picture Tube — and I just found a pre-release version of the book (with a slightly different name) which apparently he sent out to 500 people on floppy disk. New videos from Bob's extensive archive include a 1980 conference talk titled How Legal is What You Are Doing? and a quirky, low-budget 1980 TV show called Pirate This Program. He definitely knew how to give things interesting titles to draw interest. (I still have more to sort through from Coop's stash.)

In newsletter news: we've added 221 issues of the Antique Wireless Association of Southern Africa's ZS0AWA Newsletter. The AWASA is a radio club that's more than 20 years old, with a mission to facilitate, generate and maintain an interest in the location, acquisition, repair and use of yesterday's radios. In these pages you'll find repair and upgrade information, personal anecdotes, classic radio advertisements, and often, crossword puzzles that might make you question your technical chops. The FCC should use one of these crosswords as part of the Extra class exam. Or better yet, not. I never would have passed.

Without really planning it, we recently ended up with new collections from two ham radio groups in the Philadelphia Pennsylvania area. The Penn Amateur Radio Club archive is a collection of material from the University of Pennsylvania Amateur Radio Club, which dates back to 1909. The collection includes photos, certificates, QSL cards, and a very fun home movie of Penn Amateur Radio Club activities shot in The 1960s.

Then, there's the Holmesburg Amateur Radio Club, also in Philadelphia. This club, founded in 1977, is a baby relative to Penn, but still we have 147 issues of

their “HARC Spark” newsletter, going back to 1982. Some are from their web site, others were scanned by us and are online for the first time.

From North Carolina we’ve added 172 issues of SWARC News, the newsletter of the South Wake Amateur Radio Club; and from California’s Bay Area, 249 issues of the Marin Amateur Radio Society QSA-5 Newsletter going back to the year 2000.

Finally: one of the first things that I did when I started work on DLARC in October 2022 was go to the major radio manufacturers’ web sites and get a copy of every manual, firmware, and anything else that made sense to make a backup of. It’s been a couple of years, so this month I went back to Yaesu to see what was new. I found about 250 new items for the Yaesu library, including catalogs, videos, radio firmware and manuals. Just a backup, just in case.

73s until next year, when I’ll get to talk about my favorite holiday, public domain day.

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